

as director of the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Illinois, assistant director of the Willamette National Cemetery, director at the Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso, Texas, director at Eagle Point National Cemetery in Oregon and director at the Santa Fe National Cemetery in New Mexico. Additionally, Gill served more than 20 years in the U.S. Air Force before retiring in 1986. He received an associate's degree from the University of Maryland, European Division in 1984.

Gill and his wife, Amparo, have three children: a son in the U.S. Air Force Reserve; a daughter in San Antonio, Texas; and a son in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Gill Gallo's tireless passion for community and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. I am proud to call Gill a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many people are grateful for his service, and wish him the very best in San Antonio.

#### EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES OF SOUTH KOREAN SEAMEN KILLED BY NORTH KOREA

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in sympathy with the families of those killed in the sinking of the Republic of Korean ship (ROKS) Cheonan. I stand in solidarity with the people of the Republic of Korea in the aftermath of this tragic incident. However, I have serious concerns with language in H. Res. 1382. While it appropriately expresses sympathy to the families of those killed in the attack, it also appears to express support for possible military action against North Korea.

North Korea announced yesterday that it is severing all relations with South Korea, further exasperating an already contentious relationship. This resolution "urges the United States" and "its allies . . . to take appropriate actions in response to the sinking of the ROKS Cheonan and other hostile acts of North Korea." The resolution also "urges the international community to provide all necessary support to the Republic of Korea as the Government of the Republic of Korea prepares to respond to the actions committed by North Korea, which led to the sinking of the ROKS Cheonan." State Department officials, including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, have also made public statements vowing that the attack will not go unanswered.

Congress and the Administration can better express support for the people of the Republic of Korea by recommitting to promoting dialogue between the two nations. The expression of congressional support for a possible military response to North Korea's actions can only serve to heighten the likelihood of a military confrontation. Military action in retaliation to North Korea's attack on the South Korean ship can only result in the further loss of life. I believe strongly in the power and necessity of diplomacy. The United States has a responsibility to utilize its unique role as an ally of South Korea to bring the nation closer to resolution with North Korea.

HONORING MS. ALMA GAMMAGE

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Ms. Alma Gammage has given of herself as an educator of E.L. Bouie, Sr., Elementary Theme school, a daughter, a mother and friend; and

Whereas, Ms. Gammage has been chosen as this year's Teacher of the Year, representing E.L. Bouie Elementary school; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her tireless works, motivational speeches and words of wisdom; and

Whereas, Ms. Gammage is a virtuous woman, a courageous woman and a fearless leader who has shared with the world her vision and passion to help ensure that our future, our children, receive an education that is relevant for today, but also for the future; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Alma Gammage for her leadership and service for our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim April 23, 2010, as Ms. Alma Gammage Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

#### EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES OF SOUTH KOREAN SEAMEN KILLED BY NORTH KOREA

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to convey my deepest condolences for the people of South Korea following the tragic sinking of the naval ship, Cheonan, which has severely traumatized the nation and disrupted peace and stability in the Land of the Morning Calm.

As a longtime friend of the Korean people, I fully support the resolution introduced by my colleagues, Representatives FALCOMA, VAEGA, ROS-LEHTINEN, ACKERMAN, MANZULLO, and BERMAN, that expresses sympathy to the families of the 46 sailors killed as a result of North Korea's aggression, and demonstrates our solidarity with the Republic of Korea in the aftermath of this tragedy.

For me in particular, this incident is very personal and excruciatingly painful. As a veteran who fought in the Battle of Kunuri during the Korean War, I have witnessed the anguish and the suffering inflicted on the Peninsula as a result of North Korea's invasion of the South on June 25, 1950. In fact this year marks the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, which evidently has yet to end.

The Korean people have lived in a state of division and instability in the Peninsula for sixty years. The recent disaster is clearly a somber reminder that the United States must reaffirm our alliance with the Republic of Korea to help bring closure to the first and last conflict of the Cold War and ultimately build a path toward reconciliation between the two Koreas.

#### RECOGNIZING PROSPERO J.J. SANCHEZ FOR HIS DEDICATION TO NEW MEXICO BOYS STATE

**HON. HARRY TEAGUE**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Prospero J.J. Sanchez, someone who truly loves our country and is a veteran of the Army who makes his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

A few years ago, after some arm twisting by his father, Prospero, Sr., a World War II Marine Veteran, he was taken for the first time 30 years ago to attend the American Legion New Mexico Boys State. After that year there was no more arm twisting involved with Prospero Sanchez attending the annual Boys' State session. This year's American Legion New Mexico Boys' State session being held at the Campus of Eastern New Mexico University will mark Prospero J.J. Sanchez's 30th consecutive session of attendance.

Prospero has held many positions throughout the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State organization which has taught thousands of New Mexico High School Seniors the rights and responsibilities of being citizens of this great country of ours. Numerous members of our society have attended an American Legion Boys State or an American Legion Auxiliary Girls State session held annually on campus across this nation.

The program's alumni has held positions as CEO's, Artists, Athletes, Newscasters, Justices on the Supreme Court, both chambers of the House and Senate and even held the Position of President of the United States. It is organizations such as the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, who after wearing the uniform of our country, return home and continue to selflessly serve the communities to which they belong such as Prospero Sanchez has, not only as a very active member of the American Legion where he is one of the New Mexico's Past Department Commanders and the Current Alternate National Executive Committee Man.

Prospero J.J. Sanchez is commended for his dedication of many years of service to the youth of the nation at American Legion New Mexico Boys State, where he currently holds the position of President of the American Legion New Mexico Boys State Board of Directors. I thank him for his many years of service and I am honored to have the opportunity to have him recognized in the Congress today.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL  
OF ARGENTINA'S INDEPENDENCE**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Representative ELIOT ENGEL of New York, in congratulating the great people of Argentina in celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of their independence from Spain, which occurred on the 25th of May of 1810.

Born in 1810 out of a newfound sense of national identity, the trajectory of Argentinean independence is inspired by the same enlightenment ideas of self-determination and representative government that inspired America's independence movement. Like George Washington, Jose de San Martin, the liberator of Argentina, led the fight for freedom in armed struggle against the shackles of Spanish rule. At the heart of the U.S. example was the creation a constitution free from monarchy, building an infant democracy surrounded by European power in the new world. Capitalizing on Napoleonic control, Argentina's cry set in motion the wars of independence across South America and the creation of new republics by the decade's end.

America's 200-year relationship with Argentina commenced officially when President James Monroe promulgated a foreign policy based on the preservation of our republics from imperial intervention, thus securing a shared destiny of independence. In an unprecedented gesture of aid to an unrecognized country, President Monroe sent a representative whose primary objective was to assure the Argentinean people that "U.S. has the most sincere disposition towards its neighbors from Latin America and considers friendly exchanges as mutually beneficial." In 1822, the U.S. became the first non-Latin nation to establish formal diplomatic relations with Argentina. Our countries' friendship has been strong ever since.

An entire week of May leading up to the 25th is devoted to celebrating several events that sparked Argentina's movement towards independence, with expatriates and Argentinean-Americans in cities across the United States also partaking in celebrations. Argentines have a proud history of enriching the world's literary, art and musical, and sports arenas. Tango performers like Carlos Gardel, and writing artists like Jorge Luis Borges, have injected masterpieces into our global tapestry, while one of the most famous soccer magicians Diego Armando Maradona amazed fans during the 1986 World Cup.

It is with great joy, Madam Speaker, that I ask the rest of my colleagues to congratulate our great neighbor on this historic achievement for their people. I wish the President of Argentina and Argentineans across the world a festive week.

## HONORING JEFFREY SIEGEL

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Jeffrey Siegel of

Berrien Regional Educational Service Agency. After over three decades of service to the education community of southwest Michigan, Mr. Siegel will be retiring as the Superintendent of Berrien RESA.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in psychology from Adelphi University in New York, Jeff made his way to Mount Pleasant, Michigan where he attended Central Michigan University and earned both his master and specialist degrees.

Mr. Siegel has served as Berrien RESA's superintendent for over seven years and has accomplished many great milestones during his distinguished tenure. Jeff created a Medicaid billing site in southwest Michigan and has worked with local school districts to reduce the number of children referred to special education across the county by nearly 15 percent. He redefined his organization's service scope to include programs and services specifically related to supporting classroom technology, student data management, business office support, career training and school safety.

In addition to his professional responsibilities at Berrien RESA, Mr. Siegel, serves his community as a leader of the Berrien Community Foundation, Berrien Springs/Eau Claire Rotary, Temple B'Nai Shalom, Consortium for Community Development, Community Partnership for Lifelong Learning, and the Great Start Collaborative Early Childhood Investment Corporation. He also serves as a member of a variety of state and local professional organizations and has been appointed by the Michigan Department of Education to provide leadership and oversight to committees related to Medicaid and intermediate school districts.

For over three decades in the Berrien County education community, Jeffrey Siegel's leadership, skills, compassion, and commitment to education have made him an indispensable asset to the citizens of Berrien County. As Mr. Siegel prepares for his retirement, he leaves a legacy that will benefit the community for years to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR.  
STEPHEN L. PAGE, ED. D. AS SUPERINTENDENT,  
HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS,  
NORTH CAROLINA**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Stephen L. Page, Ed. D. on his June 30th retirement from his position as the Superintendent of Henderson County Schools. Dr. Page's efforts have been central to the development and success of the public school system of Western North Carolina where he has served faithfully and effectively for the past 37 years.

Before beginning his career in the public school system, Dr. Page served honorably as a First Lieutenant, Combat Executive Officer, in the United States Army. For his bravery and meritorious service during the Vietnam War, Dr. Page was awarded the Bronze Star.

Dr. Page is also actively involved in the Henderson County Community. He is a member of the Civitan Club of Hendersonville and

serves as Chairman of the Civitan Foundation Board of Directors. He serves on the United Way of Henderson County Board of Directors and on the Daniel Boone Council of Boy Scouts of America. Dr. Page also served as the Honorary Chairman of the 2007 March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign in Henderson County.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Stephen Page today, to thank him for his tremendous service to the community, and to wish him well in his retirement.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS  
P. BELKOFE FOR HIS SERVICE  
TO THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA IN THE THEATER OF  
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM**HON. ROBERT E. LATTI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay special tribute to a military hero from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. United States Army LTC Thomas P. Belkofer, 44, of Perrysburg, Ohio, lost his life in combat on May 18, 2010 as a result of wounds sustained in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer was assigned to the headquarters of the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York. He is survived by his dear wife Margaret, and their daughters Alyssa and Ashley.

An individual dedicated to giving his all in everything, Thomas Belkofer was a determined athlete at his alma mater, Rossford High School, where he graduated in 1983. Thomas served in the Ohio Army National Guard, and in the Reserve Officer Training Corps, ROTC, in college. In 1992, Thomas received his Bachelor's Degree from Bowling Green State University in Architecture and Environmental Design. It was this same year he married his college sweetheart, Margaret Maness, and both were commissioned in the United States Army. Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer earned his Masters in Business Administration degree from Syracuse University during his active duty service.

A committed Army officer, Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer served 18 years at various military assignments, including the bases in Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort George G. Meade in Maryland; The Pentagon; a 13-month deployment to Afghanistan; Vincenzo, Italy; and Fort Drum, New York. During his first deployment in Afghanistan, Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer assisted with the establishment of a financial infrastructure for Afghan government employees, many of them soldiers. Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer's life and accomplishments reflect his commitment to his country and the protection of its freedoms.

In addition to his various assignments that have taken Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer all over the world, he received many badges, medals, and ribbons. These include the Overseas Service Bar, Army Staff Identification Badge, Air Assault Badge, Parachutist Badge, Combat Action Badge, Army Joint Meritorious Award, NATO Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Humanitarian Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with